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## CLAIM AMENDMENT

1 to 3 (canceled)

1           4. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2     ~~wherein~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3     substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4     mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5     with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6     elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7     relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8     enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9     column, said connector includes including a pair of strips affixed  
10    to opposite faces of said one of said wall elements and projecting  
11    beyond said edge of said one of said wall elements to form a said  
12    slot receiving the other wall element and overlapping opposite  
13    faces thereof at said edge of said other wall element.

1           5. (currently amended): ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2     ~~wherein~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3     substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4     mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5     with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6     elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7     relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8     enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9     column, said connector includes including a first strip mounted on

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10 said one of said wall elements parallel to said edge of said one of  
11 said wall elements and a spacer between said strip and a face of  
12 said one of said wall elements whereby said strip defines a slot  
13 with said one of said wall elements along the edge of said one of  
14 said wall elements, said slot receiving said edge of said other  
15 wall element, said strip overlapping said other of said wall  
16 elements.

1 6. (currently amended): ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2 ~~wherein~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, said connector includes including a step formed in said  
10 edge of said one of said wall elements in which said edge of said  
11 other wall element is received, and a strip juxtaposed with said  
12 other wall element, secured to said one of said wall elements and  
13 defining a said slot with said step, in which said edge of said  
14 other wall elements ~~is being received in said slot.~~

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1           7. (currently amended): ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1, further comprising~~ A partition for a column having means for  
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at  
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially  
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one  
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element  
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes  
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of  
9 said column, and a strip of stepped cross section secured to said  
10 one of said wall elements and forming said connector, said strip  
11 defining said slot receiving said edge of said other wall element.

8. (canceled).

1           9. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2 ~~wherein~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip  
10 connected by spot welds to said one of said wall elements along  
11 said edge of said one of said wall elements.

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10 and 11 (canceled)

1           12. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1-wherein~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip  
10 fastened along said edge of said one of said wall elements and  
11 secured thereto by threaded bolt connections.

13. (canceled)

14. (cancelled)

1           15. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~14-wherein said~~ A partition for a column having means for  
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at  
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially  
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one  
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element  
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes  
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of  
9 said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the  
10 partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements

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11 are being composed of thin slitted sheet metal or a metal fabric.

1 16. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~14 wherein said~~ A partition for a column having means for  
3 separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at  
4 least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially  
5 contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one  
6 of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element  
7 enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes  
8 thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of  
9 said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the  
10 partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements  
11 are being resilient sealing lips.

1 17. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1 wherein,~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, lateral faces of said wall elements are being rectangular  
10 or triangular.

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1                   18. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2    ~~1 wherein,~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3    substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4    mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5    with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6    elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7    relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8    enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9    column, said connector includes including at least one strip  
10   overlapping said other all element and affixed to said one of said  
11   wall elements and forming a sealing connection between said wall  
12   elements at said edges thereof.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)